

implementing a connection setup between one of the plurality of terminal devices [(1, 2)] and one of the modems [(3, 4)], including:

[-] sending a search request from [the] a corresponding terminal device [(1, 2)] to all modems [(3, 4)] that are connected to the local network [(6)];

[-] returning a reply to the corresponding terminal device [(1, 2)] from [those] said modems [(3, 4)] that have free resources available;

[-] selecting one of the modem [(3, 4)] that sent a reply with the corresponding terminal device [(1, 2)]; and

[-] establishing a connection setup [proceeding] from the corresponding terminal device [(1, 2)] to the selected modem [(3, 4)] by exchanging control information.

2. (Amended) A method [Method] according to claim 1, wherein [characterized in that] the external modems are ADSL modems [(3, 4)].

3. (Amended) A method [Method] according to claim 1, wherein [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] the local network is an Ethernet network [(6)].

4. (Amended) A method [Method] according to claim 1, further comprising the step of: [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] exchanging information for the connection setup and for setting the external modems [(3, 4) are exchanged] between the terminal devices [(1, 2)] and the external modems [(1, 2) [sic]] via an integrated control channel.

5. (Amended) A method [Method] according to claim 1, wherein [one of

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the preceding claims, characterized in that] the search request includes [contain
[sic]] further particulars about at least one of a [the] required bandwidth and a [/or
the] required protocol, and only those modems [(3, 4)] that can meet all
requirements according to the further particulars reply to the search request of a
5 terminal device [(1, 2)].

6. (Amended) A method [Method] according to claim 1, further
comprising the step of: [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that]
implementing settings of the modem [(3, 4) are implemented] via an integrated
control channel proceeding from the terminal device [(1, 2)].

10 7. (Amended) A method [Method] according to claim 1, further
comprising the step of: [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that]
outputting start/stop commands from respective ones of the [respectively
receiving] terminal device [(1, 2)] or modem that receives exchanged data
[(3, 4) outputs start/stop commands] for [the] flow control of the
15 exchanged data with which [the] data transmission from respective ones of
the [respectively transmitting] terminal device [(1, 2)] or modem that
transmits the exchanged data [(3, 4)] is started or, respectively, stopped.

8. (Amended) A method [Method] according to claim 1, further
comprising the step of: [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that,]
20 following the connection setup, exchanging echo data at periodic intervals that
make it possible for the modem [(3, 4)] to recognize whether the terminal
device [(1, 2)] is still active [are exchanged at periodic intervals].

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5 9. (Amended) A method [Method] according to claim 8, further comprising the step of: [characterized in that the connection is] automatically clearing [cleared] down the connection after a predetermined time when the modem [(3, 4)] or the terminal device [(3, 4) [sic]] has received no echo data during said predetermined [this] time.

10 10. (Amended) A method [Method] according to claim 1, further comprising the step of: [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] exchanging release information [are exchanged] between the terminal device [(1, 2)] and the modem [(3, 4)] for clearing down the connection [cleardown] and releasing [the] resources of the connection [are] in turn [released].

IN THE ABSTRACT

15 Change the heading to --ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE--;
delete the title,
in the first line, replace "The following invention is directed to a" with --A--; and
in the last line, remove "Figure 1".

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments to the specification and claims under Article 41 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty place the application into a form for prosecution before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office under 35 U.S.C. §371.